

The Office of Education

Mission and Core Beliefs

Vision

All children in New Jersey participate constructively within their local schools and communities as they prepare to become productive members of society.

Mission

The mission of the Office of Education is to support our students' cognitive, physical, behavioral, and emotional growth in a holistic manner as they discover and learn to ameliorate weaknesses, build upon strengths and prepare for a successful return to their local schools and communities. Our education programs strive to enable our students not only to **survive and cope**, but also to **thrive and enjoy living and working in the real world**.

Core Beliefs

All students are capable of learning; education is their fundamental right.

Students are best served in a strength-based planning model designed to foster success and develop self-esteem.

Parents participate as team members with Child Study staff, teachers and support staff in the educational decision making process for their child.

Relevant instructional experiences are developed for students, based on their special education Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or regular education Individualized Program Plans (IPPs).

Educational administrators provide effective program leadership by supporting competent staff.

Education programs provide students a wide variety of community, agency and facility resources within the least restrictive environment.

Thorough, effective transitional planning provides students with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes needed to maximize their success in post-secondary environments.

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Education (OOE) offers intensive twelve month educational services and supports to children and young adults ages 3 through 21. The severity or uniqueness of their needs requires removal from the public school setting for a period of time. Placement in an OOE educational program designed to meet those needs facilitates positive growth and maturation. A successful return to and/or participation in community life are goals for our OOE students.

These children and young adults:

- exhibit severe cognitive, physical, behavioral and emotional disabilities; and/or

- exhibit a variety of moderate to severe learning disabilities; and/or,

- are at risk of school failure; and/or,

- are pregnant/parenting teens.

The OOE administers a budget of 58 million dollars and employs approximately 670 full and part-time staff to serve 1600 students in more than 30 education programs in addition to individual student placements in public and private school settings.

For a listing of DHS OOE programs, please refer to the [PROGRAMS A - Z link](#).

Our responsibility for the provision of educational services includes:

- students residing in DHS operated or contracted programs;

- students referred to the OOE under arrangements with local school districts, county governments and/or human services agencies; and

- students determined State responsible by the NJ Department of Education.